

# CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

## Resolution On Community Oversight of the University Police Department

- WHEREAS,** In June 2020, the Cal Poly Pomona Academic Senate passed the resolution, [“Cal Poly Pomona’s Commitment to Anti-Racism.”](#)<sup>1</sup> which states: “We must create safe campus environments for racialized faculty, students, and staff on our campuses, where we immediately respond to systemic and individual cases of racism and its various manifestations in higher education;” and
- WHEREAS,** On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a Black veteran Cal Poly Pomona student (henceforth referred to as The Student) published an open letter, [“I Reported a Crime and Ended Up Being Accused of One.”](#)<sup>2</sup> about his negative experience with the Cal Poly Pomona University Police Department (UPD), and this experience was later reported in part four of the [“My Story Matters”](#)<sup>3</sup> series published by the *Poly Post*; and
- WHEREAS,** There is concern that this reported incident may be part of a broader pattern of reported racial discrimination by students and statements by students that they have no meaningful avenue for reporting racial discrimination on campus, and
- WHEREAS,** The Academic Senate’s stated commitment, cited above, to provide a safe campus environment for racialized students demands that we take reported patterns of racial discrimination seriously and respond effectively to claims of discriminatory practices; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls on the entire campus community to support the work of the [Police Advisory Task Force](#)<sup>4</sup> and push forward with [“Our Commitment to Action”](#)<sup>5</sup> through [Cal Poly Pomona Inclusive Excellence](#)<sup>6</sup>; and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls for the Police Advisory Board being designed by the Police Advisory Task Force to be formed with meaningful oversight capabilities, bestowed with advisory power for reviewing and changing UPD policy and practice, and comprised of individuals from multiple campus constituencies outside of the Division of Student Affairs and UPD, such as Cal Poly Pomona students, staff, and faculty; and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls on the Division of Student Affairs and UPD, in consultation with the Police Advisory Task Force, to immediately implement a meaningful and transparent reporting process for complaints against UPD that goes beyond meeting the minimal legal requirements set forth in the [California Penal Code section 832.5](#)<sup>7</sup> and to post information about this process in multiple public and prominent places (for example, the websites of the Division of Student Affairs, UPD, and other administrative offices); and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls on the working committees and administrative officials carrying out “Our Commitment to Action” to pay special attention to the places in which the University exercises direct institutional power, as in the case of University policing, over our students and to demand immediate change on policies that render students of color even more vulnerable to abuses of institutional power; and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate commends UPD for pledging<sup>8</sup> to implement the recommendations of [The President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing](#), reported to President Barack Obama in May 2015,<sup>9</sup> and calls on UPD to make public their plan and timeline for implementing these recommendations, which include (among many others):
- Ensuring “some form of civilian oversight of law enforcement” (Recommendation 2.8)
  - Developing and adopting “policies and strategies that reinforce the importance of community engagement in managing public safety” (Recommendation 4.1)
  - Engaging “community members in the training process” (Recommendation 5.2),
- and be it also
- RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to: President of Cal Poly Pomona Dr. Soraya M. Coley and her Cabinet; the University Police Department and Police Chief Dario Robinson; Cal Poly Pomona Division of Student Affairs; Cal Poly Pomona Office of Equity and Compliance; Cal Poly Pomona Staff Council; Cal Poly Pomona Human Resources; President of Cal Poly Pomona ASI; the California State Student Association; and the Poly Post.

Adopted by the Academic Senate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona on May 12, 2021.



Dr. Phyllis Nelson, Chair of the Academic Senate

<sup>1</sup> Available at: [https://www.cpp.edu/senate/documents/resolutions/resolution\\_anti-racism\\_final.pdf](https://www.cpp.edu/senate/documents/resolutions/resolution_anti-racism_final.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://lastpagekillsreader.medium.com/i-reported-a-crime-and-ended-up-being-accused-of-one-366388d41422>.

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://thepolypost.com/news/2021/03/09/my-story-matters-a-student-voice-series-4/>.

<sup>4</sup> See: <https://www.cpp.edu/student-affairs/patf.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.cpp.edu/president/from-the-president/2020-summer/our-commitment-to-action.shtml>

<sup>6</sup> See: <https://www.cpp.edu/inclusive-excellence/commitment-to-action/index.shtml>.

<sup>7</sup> Available at: [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=832.5](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=832.5).

<sup>8</sup> “CSU Police Chiefs Pledge to Implement Recommendations from President Obama’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing;” available at: <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/CSU-Police-Chiefs-Pledge-to-Implement-Recommendations-from-The-Presidents-Task-Force-on-21st-Century-Policing.aspx>.

<sup>9</sup> Full report available at: [https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce\\_finalreport.pdf](https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf).